

Germany in a Pint Glass

One-up Oktoberfest with these lesser-known German jubilees

HARVEST SEASON IS festival season in Deutschland, and to many, that means heading out among the brew crew toward Munich's Oktoberfest. With all due respect to this centuries-old celebration, we'd like to suggest you don your *dirndl* elsewhere. It's not that we have anything against Oktoberfest, but in a country that boasts some 10,000 festivals annually, it'd be a shame to miss out on the best of the rest. Here are a few of our favorites:

1. DÜRKHEIMER WURSTMARKT

BAD DURKHEIM, Sept. 11-15 and 18-21
Bad Durkheim, which turns 600 next year, is home to both the world's largest wine barrel and the largest wine festival. Wurstmarkt may translate to "sausage market," but wine has always been the focus of this celebration, featuring more than 300 wines on-site.

2. CANNSTATTER VOLKSFEST

STUTTART, Sept. 25-Oct. 11
Simply referred to as "Wasen" by locals, this celebration began in 1818 and now hosts more than 3.5 million festivalgoers. Here, you'll find a parade, a market, food stands, roller coasters and native Germans singing and dancing in the beer tents. What you won't find at Wasen? Swarms of tourists.

3. GERMAN WINE-HARVEST FESTIVAL

NEUSTADT, Sept. 25-Oct. 12
Located on the Weinstrasse (the German Wine Route), this age-old festival starts off with a "Wine Queen" coronation ceremony. Then, the vino starts flowing with first-barrel samples and tastings from the country's 13 wine-growing regions. It also boasts Germany's largest wine parade, which has more than 130 floats. —KRISTY ALPERT



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



Musicians like Hozier have wielded these oil-can axes onstage. Pictured is the Surf Wax guitar of the Boho Series.

The Coolest Guitar to Play

These oil-can guitars are as exquisite as they are functional

What does an oil can have to do with rock 'n' roll? A lot. When six strings are attached to said can, plan to be rocked. This is Bohemian Guitars — an Atlanta-based designer of electric guitars. Brothers Adam and Shaun Lee drew inspiration for these repurposed instruments from hometown Johannesburg. The company's Boho Series has four recycled oil-can guitars, varying in sound and image. From \$299, *BohemianGuitars.com* —CHRISTIANA NIELSON